

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0383

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0479

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR QA US IR IZ KU SY

SUBJ: AMIR OF QATAR'S COMMENTS ON US ASSESSMENT OF IRAN/IRAQ
SETTLEMENT

REF: STATE 86476; DOHA 424 AND 342

1. SUMMARY: IN COMMENTING ON U.S. ASSESSMENT OF IRAN/IRAQ
AGREEMENT, AMIR OF QATAR NOTED AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE OFF TO
GOOD START, ALTHOUGH BASIC INCOMPATIBILITIES REMAIN. AMIR
EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SETTLEMENT SHOULD EASE IRAQ/KUWAIT RELATIONS,
AGREED THAT IT SHOULD DIMINISH SOVIET INFLUENCE, BUT SAID THAT
HE HAD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT IRAQIS LAYING OFF SUBVERSION IN GULF,
ALTHOUGH HE WILLING TO WAIT AND SEE. AMIR STATED THAT SADDAM
HUSSAIN HAD ASSURED HIM KURDS WOULD BE HUMANELY TREATED. END
SUMMARY.

2. DURING HOUR AND A HALF CONVERSATION ON APRIL 22, I CONVEYED
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U.S. ASSESSMENT OF IRAN/IRAQ SETTLEMENT TO SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN

HAMAD AL THANI, AMIR OF QATAR. (OTHER SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED, AND ARE BEING REPORTED IN SEPTELS.) I APOLOGIZED FOR DELAY IN RESPONDING TO AMIR'S REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT, AND ASSURED AMIR OF U.S. READINESS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH HIM ON TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AMIR WOULD FEEL FREE TO SEEK OUR VIEWS AS WE FELT FREE TO SOLICIT HIS. KHALIFA AGREED THAT SUCH EXCHANGES WERE USEFUL AND SHOULD CONTINUE.

3. KHALIFA NOTED THAT IRAN/IRAQ AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE OFF TO A GOOD START, ALTHOUGH BASIC INCOMPATIBILITIES REMAIN. HE DISCOUNTED IDEOLOGY AS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR OF POTENTIAL FRICTION, SINCE HE REGARDED ARAB SOCIALISM, BAATHI OR OTHERWISE, AS A FRAUDULENT FACADE THAT WOULD FADE IF AREA EVER RETURNED TO THE NORMALITY OF PEACE.

4. RE KURDS, I MADE POINT THAT SOLE U.S. INTEREST WAS FOR HUMANE TREATMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. KHALIFA RESPONDED THAT SADDAM HUSSAIN HAD ASSURED HIM AT ALGIERS SUMMIT THAT KURDS WOULD BE HUMANELY TREATED. AMIR NOTED THAT ISLAM IMPOSED OBLIGATION ON IRAQIS FOR HUMANE TREATMENT OF KURDS, AND HENCE HE CONFIDENT OF SADDAM'S WORD. (COMMENT: KHALIFA IS MAN OF DEEP RELIGIOUS FAITH--HE PROFESSES TO BELIEVE THAT IN PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE ISLAM WILL COME TO FORE WITH SOLUTION OF ALL MID EAST PROBLEMS.)

5. ON IMPACT OF IRAN/IRAQ AGREEMENT ON KUWAIT-IRAQ DISPUTE, KHALIFA SAID AMIR OF KUWAIT HAD BEEN VISIBLY NERVOUS ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT AT ALGIERS. ACCORDING KHALIFA, HE HAD ASSURED AMIR OF KUWAIT THAT IRAQI-IRANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT SHOULD FACILITATE SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KUWAIT AND IRAQ. IN ADDITION, HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ON-GOING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SAUDI-IRAQI RELATIONS AND GOOD PROSPECTS FOR SETTLING NEUTRAL ZONE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN SAUDIS AND IRAQIS SHOULD ALSO ASSIST IN EASING KUWAIT-IRAQ SITUATION.

6. EFFECT OF IRAQ/IRAN AGREEMENT ON IRAQ-SYRIA RELATIONS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

7. AMIR CONCURRED THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD DIMINISH SOVIET INFLUENCE IN IRAQ, AND NOTED HIS AWARENESS THAT EVEN BEFORE AGREEMENT

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IRAQIS TURNING MORE AND MORE TO WEST, INCLUDING U.S., FOR TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT EXPERTISE. HE REMARKED THAT IRAQIS, LIKE MOST ARABS, WERE PRAGMATISTS IN THIS REGARD AND WILLING TO PUT ASIDE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES TO GET THE BEST ON MARKET.

8. RE IMPACT OF AGREEMENT ON IRAQI SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS IN GULF, AMIR SAID HE HAD NO RPT NO ILLUSIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD OBSERVE IRAQIS' BEHAVIOR CAREFULLY OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS OR SO, TO

DETERMINE WHETHER THEY HAD FORESWORN THEIR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.
KHALIFA ASSERTED THAT IF IRAQIS DID NOT LAY OFF IN GULF, IT
WOULD DAMAGE CREDIBILITY OF THEIR CURRENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
THEIR IMAGE AND RELATIONS WITH THEIR ARAB BRETHERN, AND THAT
"ARAB CONSENSUS" WOULD BE INVOKED TO COMPEL THEM TO CEASE SUCH
ACTIVITY.
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